

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Final Office Action mailed September 4, 2007, claims 1 – 4 and 6 – 9 were rejected. In response, Applicant has filed herewith a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). Additionally, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 6 and canceled claim 2. Applicant hereby requests reconsideration of the application in view of the amended claims and the below provided remarks.

For reference, Applicant has amended claim 1 as suggested to overcome the cited informality.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claim 6 has been amended to refer to claim 1 instead of claim 5. In view of the amendment to claim 6, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Response to Claim Rejections

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 2. Claim 1 has also been amended to particularly point out that the bootstrap switches are connected to the output signal of “said *track-and-hold* circuit via said level shifting (20) and buffering means (30) *of said track-and-hold circuit.*” As amended, claim 1 recites:

“A track-and-hold circuit having an input signal (Vin) and an output signal (Vs), a bootstrap switch (14a) having as its inputs a clock signal and an input signal (vin), said input signal (vin) of said bootstrap switch (14a) being connected to said output signal (Vs) of said circuit via level shifting (20) and buffering means (30), characterized in that said input signal (vin) of said bootstrap switch (14a) comprises said output signal (Vs) of said circuit; said track-and-hold circuit further comprising a capacitor (12), said input signal (Vin) being connected to said capacitor (12) via a switch (10), said switch (10) being closed during a track mode of said circuit and open during a hold mode of said circuit, said bootstrap switch (14a) having as an output to said switch (10), a clock signal (clkboot) equal to said input signal (Vin) added to a supply voltage (Vdd); and

including two or more bootstrap switches (14a, 14b), the input signal (vin) of *each of which is connected to said output signal (Vs) of said track-and-hold circuit via said level shifting (20) and buffering means (30) of said track-and-hold circuit.*” (emphasis added)

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dedie (U.S. Pat. No. 5,384,570) in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA). Applicant asserts that claim 1, as amended, is not unpatentable over Dedie in view of the AAPA because neither Dedie nor the AAPA teach or suggest two or more bootstrap switches, "the input signal (vin) of *each of which is connected to said output signal (Vs) of said track-and-hold circuit via said level shifting (20) and buffering means (30) of said track-and-hold circuit.*" The Final Office action cites "Fig. 11, 4, 5 included in VSC1, VSC2" of Dedie as teaching two or more bootstrap switches as recited in amended claim 1. Applicant respectfully points out that VSC1 and VSC2 in Fig. 11 of Dedie represent two separate voltage storage circuits, Dedie col. 25, lines 46 – 48. Although Fig. 11 depicts two bootstrap switched driving devices (4, 5), the two bootstrap switched driving devices (4, 5) are each associated with a different one of the two separate voltage storage devices, VSC1 and VSC2. In contrast to Dedie, amended claim 1 recites a single track-and-hold circuit that includes two or more bootstrap switches. In particular, amended claim 1 recites two or more bootstrap switches, "the input signal (vin) of *each of which is connected to said output signal (Vs) of said track-and-hold circuit via said level shifting (20) and buffering means (30) of said track-and-hold circuit.*" Clearly the two bootstrap switched driving devices (4,5) depicted in Fig. 11 of Dedie are not connected to the output signal via the same level shifting and buffering means as recited in amended claim 1. Because Dedie does not teach or suggest the above-identified limitation of amended claim 1, Applicant asserts that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established.

Dependent Claims 3, 4, and 6 – 9

Claims 2 – 4 and 6 – 9 are dependent on claim 1. Applicant respectfully asserts claims 2 – 4 and 6 – 9 are allowable at least based on an allowable base claim.

CONCLUSION

Petition is hereby made under 37 CFR 1.136(a) to extend the time for response to the Office Action of 12/4/07 to and through 1/4/08, comprising an extension of the shortened statutory period of one month.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims in view of the amendments remarks made herein. A notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any fees required or credit any over payment to Deposit Account **50-3444** pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.25. Additionally, please charge any fees to Deposit Account **50-3444** under 37 C.F.R. 1.16, 1.17, 1.19, 1.20 and 1.21.

Respectfully submitted,

/mark a. wilson/

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Mark A. Wilson
Reg. No. 43,994

Wilson & Ham
PMB: 348
2530 Berryessa Road
San Jose, CA 95132
Phone: (925) 249-1300
Fax: (925) 249-0111